



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth



MassHealth
Long Term Care Facility Bulletin 88
May 2005

TO: Nursing Facilities, Chronic Disease and Rehabilitation Inpatient Hospitals, and Rest Homes Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Beth Waldman, Medicaid Director *BW*

RE: **2005 Social Security Benefit Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for Residents of Long-Term-Care Facilities**

Background

Effective January 1, 2005, a Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) increased monthly benefits for most recipients of Retirement/Survivors/Disability Insurance (RSDI) by 2.7%.

Patient-Paid Amount Increase for Residents of Long-Term-Care Facilities

An increase in monthly income will usually result in an increase to the monthly patient-paid amount (PPA) for residents of long-term-care facilities. PPA increases must be applied toward claims submitted to MassHealth for January 2005, and for each month thereafter.

Recently, system-generated notices about the new PPAs were mailed to members, spouses, and responsible parties. Letter-format notices indicating old and new PPAs for each member were mailed to affected providers. A notice is not generated if there is no change in the PPA.

Patient-Paid Amount Increase for Residents of Rest Homes

Effective January 1, 2005, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment amount for residents of rest homes increased by \$12 per month, resulting in a \$12 per month increase in the PPA. The PPA increase must be applied to claims submitted to MassHealth for January 2005 and for each month thereafter. The minimum PPA will be \$812.

Personal Needs Allowances

The personal needs allowance (PNA) for MassHealth members in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals remains \$60 per month.

The PNA for SSI recipients in rest homes remains \$60 per month.

The PNA for SSI recipients in nursing facilities and chronic disease hospitals remains \$65 per month.

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Questions

Questions about the information in this bulletin should be directed to the MassHealth Policy Hotline at 617-210-5331.
